

the United States to be a Congressional Representative to the United Nations, I was in New York City and missed recorded votes on the House Floor on Monday, September 24, 2007 and Tuesday, September 25, 2007.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote Nos. 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 905, and 907. I would have voted "no" on Rollcall vote Nos. 902, 903, 904, and 906.

#### ENSURING WELFARE DOLLARS ARE SPENT WISELY

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2007*

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3656, a bill to better ensure that taxpayer funds for welfare go to help low-income parents go to work, not to support drug habits. I want to thank my friend and colleague, Congressman PHIL ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for sponsoring this legislation and I am glad to join as his chief co-sponsor.

In 1996, the Republican-led Congress passed welfare reforms that emphasized the necessity of work to achieving economic self-sufficiency. As a result of that historic reform, millions of families have moved from welfare dependence to greater self-sufficiency, supported by pro-work benefits including child care funds, health coverage, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. Poverty has fallen dramatically, for some groups to record lows.

But there is still more work to do. We all know that too many American parents remain trapped by drug addiction. H.R. 3656 is designed to ensure that our country sends a clearer message about the support available for low-income parents, and what obligations those parents have to stay clean and off of drugs. So this legislation builds upon the success of the 1996 reforms by attempting to better ensure federal tax dollars are spent efficiently and appropriately. Simply put, taxpayer money intended to provide temporary assistance to needy families should not be spent to subsidize drug abuse.

H.R. 3656 expects States to test welfare recipients and applicants for benefits when caseworkers have reason to believe the parent is taking illegal drugs. Not every recipient or applicant, but those for who there is real cause to think that taxpayer funds might wind up furthering a drug habit instead of helping parents find, take and stay in jobs. This common-sense reform will help States identify those in need of substance abuse treatment, and ensure that federal funds are not spent buying illegal drugs.

Madam Speaker, recently in my home state of Illinois, I had an opportunity to meet with members of the Marseilles Concerned Citizens Against Drugs, a group of citizens committed to seeing drug abuse removed from my community. They expressed their dismay that federal dollars are being spent to support an addiction which destroys lives, families, and communities. I couldn't agree more.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to better ensure that welfare assistance is spent appropriately, and that those addicted to

drugs be identified so they can receive the treatment needed to lead more productive lives. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3656.

#### CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2007*

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 976, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007. As a strong supporter of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), I am pleased that the House is working to extend SCHIP beyond its upcoming September 30, 2007 expiration.

Importantly, the bill before the House today (H.R. 976) does not include many of the Medicare provisions that were included in H.R. 3162. Those provisions would have markedly reduced funding for my constituent seniors, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies. Accordingly, I was compelled to vote against H.R. 3162, even though I have long supported the SCHIP program and its expansion.

H.R. 976 takes the approach set forth in legislation (H.R. 3269) introduced by the gentlewoman from New Mexico, Mrs. WILSON, which I cosponsored. Significantly, under this approach, approximately four million additional children will have access to health insurance through SCHIP and their coverage will not come at the expense of my constituent seniors and health care providers.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICHARD E. "DICK" COOPER

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I regret that I must inform the House of the passing of a great American in my home community.

Richard E. "Dick" Cooper was a friend to me and many others in the State of Kentucky, but especially in my hometown of Somerset. Even more than a friend, he was a father figure, a confidant, friend and advisor. And he was humble, giving and modest.

Dick left us August 7, 2007 at 92. He was the Chairman of the Board at Citizens National Bank, and knew practically everyone. In fact, he also likely knew their parents and even grandparents. His devotion to duty was tireless. He came to work every day right up until the day he died. He cared deeply for people.

After completing high school in 1932, he graduated with honors at the University of Kentucky. In 1942, he entered the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific. Back home, in the business community, he very successfully led the Somerset Stone Company before becoming chairman at the bank. As a civic leader in our community, he served on numerous orga-

nizations including on the advisory board at Somerset Community College. For many years he served on the Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky.

Dick was more than a local leader. He was well-known throughout the Commonwealth, as a great civic and business leader. He was awarded "man of the year" in 1965 by a Louisville radio station. But he was our man of the year for many more years to come and will continue to be.

Mr. Cooper married Cornelia Dozier in 1961, and she is a leader in her own right in community and cultural affairs. He also leaves behind two children and five grand children. Dick was a brother to the late U.S. Senator John Sherman Cooper, who served with great distinction in Congress from just after World War II until the early 70's.

He came from a good family and leaves a good one behind. Family, friends, and associates from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky will remember him. He touched many lives and hearts with his genuine concern for them, and his example of leadership with purpose and dedication. I am just one of them.

The world is a better place because of the life of Dick Cooper.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 18th and missed Rollcall Vote 876 on passage of H.R. 1852, the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

This legislation makes great strides in allowing the Federal Housing Administration to reach a greater number of borrowers seeking homeownership by increasing loan limits to keep pace with the rising cost of homes, and it offers new, important protections to borrowers who are vulnerable to exploitation in the subprime and predatory loan markets.

The bill also includes numerous other strong measures to help address our Nation's affordable housing crisis, and I would like to express my gratitude for this bill's passage in the House.

#### CONGRATULATING JOSEPH AND JOAN PRZYWARA ON THE OCCA- SION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2007*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Joseph and Joan Przywara, of West Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, as they celebrate 50 years of marriage.

On September 14, 1957, Mr. and Mrs. Przywara were joined in marriage at St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception Church in Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. Przywara began his working career at first in the anthracite coal mines in the Wyoming Valley and then worked for General Motors in New Jersey, McGregor Sportswear in Nanticoke, Woodlawn Farm Dairy in Wilkes-Barre and Dairylea in Scranton. In 1974, he established the West Side Dairy and the couple's two sons, Joseph and Robert, soon joined him in business. In 1982, he acquired the Dream Whip ice cream business in Nanticoke.

Mr. Przywara has served his community in several capacities over the years, not the least of which was his many contributions of time and energy to promote Democratic Party principles and candidates.

He was also highly instrumental in establishing the Plymouth Township Recreation Association on land he helped acquire from the Glen Alden Coal Company. He coached little league baseball for many years and also served as a PIAA baseball and softball official and as an ASA softball umpire.

Mrs. Przywara worked at Pennsylvania Wholesale Drug Company, Heavenly Shoe Company, the United States Social Security Administration and the United States Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration for many years. She currently manages Dream Whip Ice Cream which employs nine people. She is a past member of the Plymouth Township Recreation Association Auxiliary.

Mr. and Mrs. Przywara had three children, Joseph, who is deceased; Robert and Lisa Bonar. They also have four grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Przywara are shining examples of hard working, family and community minded Americans who enrich the quality of life not only for themselves but for all whose lives they have touched. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Przywara on this special occasion.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2007*

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on several measures that came before the House on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 because of illness.

Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1400, Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007; "aye" on H. Res. 584, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month; "aye" on H. Con. Res. 210, Supporting the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month; "aye" on H. Res. 663, Supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day; "aye" on H. Res. 548, Expressing the ongoing concern of the House of Representatives for Lebanon's democratic institutions and unwavering support for the administration of justice upon those responsible for the assassination of Lebanese public figures opposing Syrian control of Lebanon; "aye" on H. Res. 642, Expressing sympathy and support for the people and governments of the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico which have suffered from Hurricanes Felix, Dean, and Henriette and whose complete economic and fatality toll are still unknown; "aye" on H. Res.

557, Strongly condemning the United Nations Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human rights abuses in various countries, while choosing to unfairly target Israel by including it as the only country permanently placed on the Council's agenda; and no on H. Res. 675, On the question of tabling the motion to appeal the ruling of the chair.

Further, I would have voted no on the previous question and no on adopting H. Res. 675, providing for the consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 976; "aye" on H. Res. 95, Supporting the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month; no on H.R. 976, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007; and "aye" on H. Res. 590, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2007*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday morning, September 25, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 1400, H. Res. 584, H. Con. Res. 210, and H. Res. 663.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 895 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1400, the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 896 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 584, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 897 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 210, Supporting the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 898 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 663, Supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day, I would have voted "aye."

#### HONORING MARTY DICKENS

### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2007*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Marty Dickens as he retires from his position as president of AT&T Tennessee after a distinguished 39-year career in the telecommunications industry.

Beginning his career with the company in 1969, Marty worked in the public affairs and regulatory departments and comptroller's office before joining BellSouth International in 1992. He has served on the boards of directors of BellSouth operations in Brazil, Venezuela, Panama, Nicaragua, Israel, China and Denmark.

Since moving to Nashville to become president of the company in 1999, Marty has become a force not just in the Nashville business community, but in its charitable and civic life

as well. Not content with the challenges of running a major regional employer, Marty sought out other ways to contribute such as serving on the Board of Trustees at Belmont University, on the community boards of the YMCA, Boy Scouts, Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music, as well as the Adventure Science Center, among others.

Marty has also served on the corporate boards of Genesco and First American Financial Holdings and has served as chairman of both the Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Most recently, he was honored as the 2007 Outstanding Nashvillian of the Year by the Kiwanis Club of Nashville.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Marty Dickens on an exemplary record of service in business, in charity and in our community. He has set an example that we would all do well to emulate, and we wish him well in his retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN J. COLLINS

### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2007*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, books and movies about these days about the "Greatest Generation," those men and women who fought and won World War II to save us from fascism. But it is not just the winning of World War II that leads us to admire and be grateful to members of our parents' generation. To know the individual is to understand the generational achievement of greatness.

My father-in-law, Dr. John J. Collins, is a person whose life can so instruct us. Like so many of his generation, John J. Collins was not born to wealth or privilege. Born in Oklahoma in 1917, his family soon moved to California, where his father worked in the oil fields in Coalinga. He was the oldest boy in a big Irish-American family, with several older sisters. And when his father died at an early age, as a boy he was the "oldest man" in his household during the Great Depression. Like so many of his generation, he learned habits of frugality and hard work in those early years. These habits have served him and his family well. They are with him to this day.

In the best American spirit, he struggled to go farther than his parents. He was educated at Coalinga Junior College and then worked his way through the University of California at Berkeley, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree. Like so many others, he enlisted to fight in World War II, joining the U.S. Army before Pearl Harbor, in 1941. In the Army, he became an infantry and artillery officer. He served for years in the Pacific, including taking part in the fighting in Saipan and Okinawa. This was rough combat and many died. Like most of those who I've met who served under such conditions, he prefers not to discuss the details of combat but remembers still those of his colleagues who did not return. He merely served bravely, honorably and saved our country, emerging as a Captain. He is humble about his service. We are honored by it.

After the war, he returned to the San Francisco Bay Area and then moved to Bakersfield where he went to work at Bakersfield High